



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Buffalo Field Office
1425 Fort Street
Buffalo, Wyoming 82834-2436



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MAR 3 2006

Dear Operator/Consultant,

Re: Spring Seeding

Beginning April 1, 2006, the BLM-Buffalo Field Office will begin a voluntary pilot spring seeding program. This program has been requested by the CBNG industry to reduce costs, hasten reclamation, stabilize recently disturbed soils and promote reclamation success. This program will expand the existing planting periods to include seeding activities between April 1 and May 15 in areas more than ¼ mile from sage grouse leks and/or raptor nests. Seeding operations in these areas must occur between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. This program does not apply to seeding activities within one mile of bald eagle nests.

The Buffalo Field Office will require 48 hours notification prior to starting seeding activities. Seeding operations are limited to planting and soil preparation activities and should move along as quickly as possible. This does not include any new earthwork (recontouring, leveling, etc.).

To facilitate this pilot project, operators will need to document the presence and/or occupancy of raptor nests prior to and after seeding activities in these areas. The pilot program is for 2006 only. However, the program may be extended in subsequent years based upon the findings of the inventories carried out before and after the seeding activities and compliance with the guidelines of the pilot program.

If you participate in the pilot program, you will need to furnish a report to this office on the results of the raptor inventories conducted by your company within 30 days of completion of your seeding activities. The report should document the activity of the nests and any impacts to those nests as a result of the seeding activities.

If you have any questions, please contact Buddy Green in this office at 307-684-1096.

Chris Hanson

Field Manager
Buffalo Field Office